



The

# GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
December 2015    <http://www.gars.org/>    Volume 24, Issue 12



## 'Tis the Season...



QSL By WA4PBC  
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
Santa's Workshop  
North Pole  
Grid Sq J40Qds  
Comments:

QSO With	Date	UTC	Freq	Mode	RST
----------	------	-----	------	------	-----

Merry Christmas  
To:  
From: Santa Claus  
Call:  
Comments:  
QSL: PIs Trks



... for Giving!

# Message from the President

Wrapping up another year with GARS and man it has been a great ride. TechFest 2015 was a great success and I know you are all looking forward to TechFest 2016 which is just around the corner. We all froze our antennas at the winter dog show fund raiser and put on a little sweat at the summer show in August, but as usual, it was a great success and helped immensely with the operating funds for both GARS and Gwinnett ARES.

Later in the year came the demise of our primary repeater site, the Lawrenceville water tower. We were all sad to see it go but technology marches on and we have to move on with it. Our repeater was successfully relocated to our Snellville site thanks to the hard volunteer work of many of our members. There is still some work to go but we are well on our way back to having a world class repeater system.

To carry on with the wrap up, 2 ham crams helped to bring numerous new Technician Class licensees to the hobby as did our monthly VE testing sessions. Going down the list, *Satellites in the Park* in May was fun and helped us to build our skills and knowledge about working satellites. Another May event, the *Memorial Day Parade* was successfully marshaled by our members. They say it wouldn't happen without our help!

We participated in our first-on-record VHF contest at Bogan park in September. The logs were thin but propagation was poor even for the best of contestants. The key was having fun and exercising our equipment in the field. Also in September we hosted the DC-3 special event station. Because of mechanical difficulty and low ceilings we did so without the DC-3 but the contacts were plentiful and appreciated by the EAA.



"We participated in our first-on-record VHF contest at Bogan park in September. The logs were thin but propagation was poor even for the best of contestants."

OK, I'm running out of paper and there are still lots more events from the calendar. The Atlanta Hamfest, Jamboree on the Air, the Stone Mountain Ham Fest, and the Fox Hunt took place. But I'm leaving out one of the most import events of the year... FIELD DAY. GARS always conducts a fantastic Field Day operation and 2015 was the best yet. Contacts were plentiful; the generators and solar arrays all worked well, and the food was great. Of course it rained a bit but we were prepared. Oh, and did I mention the food was good, and plentiful?!

I would like to thank you all for making 2015 a great year for GARS! Please stick around. There is more to come in 2016. I hope to see you at the Holiday Party and many more GARS events to come.

Thanks and 73s,

*Rick Cobb, N4XYY*

***"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."***

[Author Unknown]



# GARS December Meeting

## “GARS 2015 Christmas Party ”

*Friday, December 4, 2015*

*Start time: 6:30 pm*

*Eat: 7:00 pm*

*Come early—get a good seat!*

**Sports Aviation Complex - Hangar 1**

**690 Airport Road**

**Lawrenceville, GA 30045**

Directions

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### **GARS Communications**

<u>2 Meter Repeater</u> 147.075(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone	<u>2 Meter Repeater</u> 147.255(+) MHz 107.2 PL Tone
<u>APRS</u> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR	<u>6 Meter Repeater</u> 53.110 (-1 MHz) No PL tone
<u>D-Star</u> WD4STR 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)	<u>70 Cm Repeaters</u> 444.525(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone 442.100(+) 100 PL Tone

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**Don't forget  
to support our  
advertisers at the  
back of the  
*GARzette*.**

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to n4gyn@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

*The GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: Ray Bailey—N4GYN  
770-689-6620 or [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org)



# Member QRZ Pages

For a few months we will be featuring the QRZ page of various members of GARS.

This month we are featuring the QRZ page of :

## AF4FO - Susan Swiderski

When you click on the link below  
you will find her profile.

<http://qrz.com/lookup/af4fo>

Read her notes and get to know her better.  
You'll be glad you did.



Here is an excerpt from her page:

“ Ham radio has added so many wonderful people to my life and has given me the incredible opportunity to make new friends all over the world. What a blessing!! ... “

Watch for another featured GARS member QRZ page in next month's GARzette!

Ray Bailey, N4GYN, GARzette Editor

## 2015 in Review



# Coming Events?

Date	Event	Website	Notes
13-Dec	Sunday Tech	<a href="http://atlantaradioclub.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=44&amp;Itemid=50">http://atlantaradioclub.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=44&amp;Itemid=50</a>	In <b>Decatur</b> . Atlanta Radio Club: Getting Started with the Arduino!
3-Jan	Atlanta Radio Club meeting	<a href="http://atlantaradioclub.org/">http://atlantaradioclub.org/</a>	In <b>Atlanta</b> at the American Red Cross building. John K4SQC will talk about ARISS.
9-Jan	TechFest	<a href="http://www.techfest.info/">http://www.techfest.info/</a>	In <b>Lawrenceville</b> . Focuses on different aspects of technology related to ham radio.
12-Jan	GARS club meeting	<a href="http://www.gars.org/w4gr/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=52&amp;Itemid=186">http://www.gars.org/w4gr/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=52&amp;Itemid=186</a>	GARS = Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society. Meets in <b>Lawrenceville</b> .
14-Jan	Alford Memorial Radio Club meeting	<a href="http://www.totr-radio.org/meeting.php">http://www.totr-radio.org/meeting.php</a>	Meets at Annistown Baptist Church in <b>Stone Mountain/Lilburn</b> .
19-Jan	NFARL club meeting	<a href="http://www.nfarl.org/Meetings/meetings.html">http://www.nfarl.org/Meetings/meetings.html</a>	NFARL = North Fulton Amateur Radio League. Meets in <b>Alpharetta</b> .
12 -14 Feb	Orlando HamCation	<a href="http://www.hamcation.com/">http://www.hamcation.com/</a>	Amateur Radio + <b>Orlando</b> Fun for whole family!
15-Feb	State Convention of GA ARES	<a href="https://gaares.org/">https://gaares.org/</a> ARES = Amateur Radio Emergency Services	<b>Forsyth, GA</b> . See how amateur radio operators prepare to help out in emergencies.
27-Feb	Dalton Hamfest	<a href="http://w4drc.webstarts.com/">http://w4drc.webstarts.com/</a>	<b>Dalton, GA</b> . First hamfest of the year in the north GA area.
8-Mar*	Atlanta Science Festival ARISS	<a href="http://atlantasciencefestival.org/ariss">http://atlantasciencefestival.org/ariss</a> *date subject to change due to needs of International Space Station	<b>Fernbank Science Center</b> : Talk with an astronaut as he/she flies over! ARISS = Amateur Radio on the International Space Station
26-Mar	Atlanta Science Festival Expo	<a href="http://atlantasciencefestival.org/expo">http://atlantasciencefestival.org/expo</a>	<b>Centennial Olympic Park, Atlanta</b> (weather permitting – if not, in the GWCC)
25-Apr	Calhoun Hamfest	<a href="http://k4woc.com/">http://k4woc.com/</a>	<b>Calhoun, GA</b>
20-22 May	Dayton Hamvention	<a href="http://hamvention.org/">http://hamvention.org/</a>	<b>Dayton, Ohio</b> <a href="#">World's largest hamfest!</a>
4-Jun	Atlanta Hamfest	<a href="http://atlantahamfest.org/">http://atlantahamfest.org/</a>	<b>Marietta, GA</b>
25-26 Jun	Field Day	<a href="http://www.nfarl.org">www.nfarl.org</a> <a href="http://www.gars.org">www.gars.org</a> <a href="http://www.totr-radio.org">www.totr-radio.org</a> <a href="http://www.w4doc.org">www.w4doc.org</a>	Join any club for their Field Day celebration!

# TechFest 2016

A rough copy of the new website!



## HELLO

Welcome to the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society's TechFest Information website.

**We will update as new information is available.**

Last Posted 12/01/2015

## ABOUT

TechFest is sponsored by the Gwinnett Amateur

## RAFFLE

For TechFest 2016, we are raffling off a brand new [Icom 7100](#).



Tickets are \$5.00 each, or 5 tickets for \$20.00.

Tickets will be available for sale at TechFest. GARS representatives will also try to visit area clubs with raffle tickets for sale.

We added an online ticket order option.

Orders may be made online.

[Order Raffle Tickets Here](#) Multiples of 5 for \$20.00 only.

The drawing for the Icom 7100 will be held at 2:00pm at the GARS table.

You don't have to be present to win the raffle..

## WHERE

Gwinnett Medical Resource Center  
665 Duluth Highway (GA-120)  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

[Directions](#)

## COST

General Admission:	FREE
Exhibitors:	FREE
Coffee:	FREE
Lunch:	FREE
Forums:	FREE
Door Prize Tickets:	FREE

## WHEN

**Saturday, January 9th, 2016**  
**9:00am - 2:00pm**

**Exhibitors may start setting up at 7:30am**

## LICENSE EXAMS

VE Exam Session begins at 9:15am  
(Exam Fee: \$14)

[605 Form](#)

[What to bring to a test session](#)

## FORUMS

- Digital Modes, PSK31
- Intro to DMR by K4USD

Look for additional information and times to be on the web page ..

<http://www.techfest.info/>

# SOTA - Summits On The Air

## WINTER ACTIVATIONS

A colleague recently asked, "As winter sets in, I guess you'll be putting your activating on hold until spring, huh? No chance! We'll take a look at the virtues of cold-weather activations.

### Disclaimers

1. I'm discussing *southeastern* winter weather -- not winter at 14,000 feet!
2. You are responsible for ensuring that **you** don't freeze to death - not me.

### Bonus

In winter months, some SOTA regions offer a 3-point bonus on 8 and 10 point summits. The rationale is to provide extra incentive when ice and cold temperature set in. In the southeast:

- Tennessee (W4T) give a winter bonus from December 1 - March 31.
- Georgia (W4G) gives a winter bonus from December 1 - March 15.
- Virginia (W4) offers a winter bonus from December 1 - March 15.
- North and South Carolina (W4C) offer no winter bonus.
- Alabama (W4A) offers no winter bonus.



Why the differences? SOTA associations are *local* within guidelines set by the SOTA Management Team. The volunteer who authored the association reference manual for W4C chose "not applicable" for the weather bonus, so there is none; the author of the W4G manual felt that a winter bonus was desirable. W4A doesn't have summits above 2500 feet.

Chasers are assumed to have heat in the shack, so there's no bonus for chasers.

### Bushwhacking

Many summits require off-trail travel in order to reach them. Bushwhacking is easier when trees are bare and ground vegetation has died back. There's less brush to push through, you can see where you're going, and you can see the sun (which is helpful in maintaining your course). As a result, there are many summits which are easier from mid-November through March.

(Continued on page 8)

# SOTA (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

## Weather

You may have to contend with ice and snow. While ice and snow make for a treacherous drive, winter views can be breathtaking. There is a particular peace that sets in when snow is falling and yours are the only footprints. Some activators like "postman's spikes" to provide better traction on an icy trail. Trekking poles help to some extent. Fortunately, in the south we seldom have enough snow to warrant snowshoes.

Warm clothing is essential, particularly when the wind is blowing (and the wind is almost always blowing "up top.") Keep in mind that you'll work up a sweat when hiking, and then you'll be sitting on a mountaintop. You'll need to add layers when you stop climbing. Consider carrying a closed-cell pad to sit on -- sitting on a cold rock will suck the heat right out of you.

Do take care when driving up a frozen road that you'll be able to get out when it thaws. Activators have been known to get stuck when the road melts!

## Wrap Up

Don't forget that daylight ends earlier in the winter. You don't want to get stuck on Mt. Nowhere after dark.

Check Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Maps to be sure that the road to the trailhead is open. Many USFS roads are closed in January and February; some are closed even longer.

See you on the summits!

73, de K4KPK / *Kevin*

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## Where can I find out more?

Official site: <http://sotadata.org.uk/>

Mailing list: <https://groups.yahoo.com/groups/summits>

K4KPK's site: <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-menu>

Email me (K4KPK). My email address is available via <http://www.qrz.com/db/K4KPK>.

## Bio

K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter is Georgia's first SOTA Mountain Goat. He has completed more than 165 activations.

*This story is Copyright 2015 Kevin P. Kleinfelter. A non-exclusive right to redistribute in electronic or printed form is granted to amateur radio clubs operating in the metro Atlanta area. All other rights reserved.*

# Revamped FCC Website Expected to Debut on December 10

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 35 ARLBo35

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT November 25, 2015

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLBo35

ARLBo35 Revamped FCC Website Expected to Debut on December 10

**The FCC has announced that its large-scale website redesign will be completed by December 10.** The switch to the new site is set to begin on December 10 at 0100 UTC and will be completed about 4 hours later.

“While the transition to the revamped site is expected to be completed almost instantaneously, there will be an ongoing process following this transition that will continue to involve user feedback, fixes by the FCC’s Information Technology team, and content updates by policy bureaus and offices,” the FCC said in a November 24 Public Notice.

The FCC said the new website has been designed to provide “better functionality, an improved design, and better searchability and navigability.” Earlier this year the Commission’s IT Department opened a beta-test version of the site, located at <https://prototype.fcc.gov/>, and has been gathering user comments at, <https://prototype.fcc.gov/eform/submit/feedback>.

“Extensive user research revealed how the FCC could improve the website’s information architecture to make content easier to find,” the Public Notice said. The FCC said its new website has been designed to operate on tablet and mobile device browsers with the display optimization based upon the device. The site utilizes a “toggle” navigation that allows visitors to browse either by “Category” or “Bureau and Office.”

When the new site comes online, the familiar current FCC website will no longer be available. The FCC said web pages and files on [transition.fcc.gov](https://transition.fcc.gov) that have not already migrated to the new site will remain available, and existing bookmarks will be redirected to the appropriate content on the new site. While the Commission has already upgraded some of its interactive systems, including the Consumer Help Center, and is working toward improvements on similar systems, including the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), these systems will not be directly impacted by the December 10 migration.

“This migration will impact the look and functionality of web pages that are coded in HTML and managed through a content management system, such as the homepage and individual bureau pages,” the FCC Public Notice said. The FCC said the change to a new website design was, in part, driven by a need to start using a more modern, open-source content management system to upgrade the site’s look and architecture, and to transition to a system that is compatible with the latest website innovations.

FCC Chief Information Officer David Bray has written blog posts about the website development process, and the beta site has been publicly available and soliciting feedback since April. Two additional public outreach sessions will be held before the December 10 changeover to explain the new site and its functionality to interested stakeholders.

NNNN

/EX

# KB6NU November 2015 Column

Hi, All--

This month, we have a guest columnist. When I read this post by Bob, KoNR, I liked it so much that I asked Bob if I could use it for this month's column. I'm sure you'll find it thought-provoking.

Be sure to find the chart attached to this e-mail and insert it in the indicated spot in the column.

73, Dan KB6NU

===== start column =====

## Kids are Not the Future of Ham Radio

By Bob Witte, KoNR

You've heard it a million times: our kids are the future. That statement gets applied to almost everything, including amateur radio. How can you argue with an obvious fact like that?

But I am starting to think it is incorrect.

We've had really good success on creating new hams of all ages in our Technician License Class (at the Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association). We've been doing this for a while now and I think I am seeing a pattern emerge. We've been able to attract middle schoolers to the class and help them get their ham radio license. I've talked to many of them on the air. They've helped out with public service events. They seem to have fun playing with radios.

Then this thing called high school happens. The high school phase in the US is filled with tons of stuff to do: studying, homework, AP classes, science competitions, sports, dating, movies, driving and after school jobs. Way too much stuff. Ham radio starts to take a backseat to these normal high school activities. Then we don't see the kids at the radio club meetings or chatting on the local repeater because they are busy doing other things. Have we lost them forever? Not sure.

High school is often followed by college which has its own set of challenges: a totally new environment, away from home, a new set of people, new studies, etc. There might be a ham radio club on campus but maybe not. If a kid is not off to college they are (hopefully) out doing something to establish themselves in this world. Eventually they emerge on the other side, get a job, get themselves established, sometimes with a spouse and maybe a kid or two. By this time they are 25 to 30 years old, depending on the individual.

I recently posted about the demographics of our students in the Tech License Class (<http://www.konr.com/wordpress/2015/10/where-are-the-new-technicians-coming-from/>). The chart below shows the age distribution of our students from our most recent class. Hmm, clearly most of our students are 30 or older. (Sorry, we have not collected age data with finer resolution.) This particular class is light on the under 18 crowd...sometimes we have a clump of kids in the mix.

For whatever reason, it seems that most people find themselves in a situation as an adult that causes them to say "I want to get my ham radio license." When asked why they want to get their ham license, the top response is always emergency/disaster communications, followed by backcountry communications, pursuing electronics as a hobby and learning about radio communications. I suspect that starting to be established in a community and having some disposable income also play a role.

My hypothesis is that the most effective way of growing a vibrant ham radio community is to target adults ages 25 to 40.

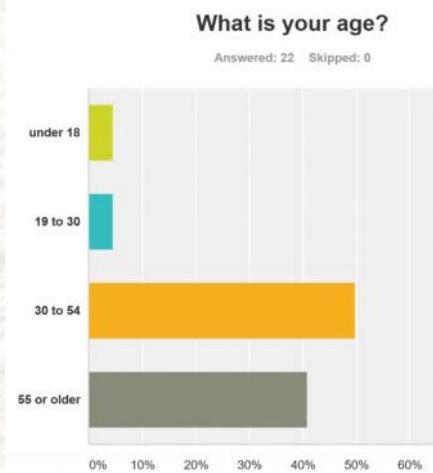
This age range is more equipped and ready to be ham radio operators and are still young enough that they will be around for a while. **Of course, we still want to work with all age groups, including kids and retirees.** We've all seen very young hams get the bug for ham radio early and carry it throughout their life. And we also see plenty of older folks get interested in the hobby as they approach or enter retirement. We don't want to miss out on either of those groups.

So that's my read on the situation. I've got some data to support my theory but I can't really prove it. What do you think? What are you seeing in your ham radio community?

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Bob Witte, KoNR, blogs about amateur radio at KoNR.Com. You can find this post at <http://www.konr.com/wordpress/2015/11/kids-not-the-future/>. You can e-mail him at [bob@konr.com](mailto:bob@konr.com). He is also on Twitter: @KoNR.

===== End Column =====



# Beginner's Corner

## Learn Morse Code

### “I Won!”

I like watching a British Ham radio program called “The TX Factor” <http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/>. They announced a drawing in the September episode for a “pocket Morse keyer”. I decided to enter. On October 2, I received an email from the show’s host telling me that I had won. I was excited! The host called me up a few days ago and recorded an interview.

You can hear the interview at <http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/txtalk.shtml>. It was all very exciting. Part of the interview will be on the next show. Be sure to look on the first link for the next episode.



My prize is a “CG Antenna PK4 Pocket Memory Keyer”. What’s a pocket keyer? I had to look that up. It is a device that hooks to your rig and can send pre-recorded Morse Code messages. I guess that in order to use it, I will have to learn Morse Code, often called CW. Well, I am close to retiring, and I wanted to learn Morse Code anyway. So here is my challenge to all new hams in GARS (and to us not-so-new hams, as well). Let’s learn Morse Code together! Well, you say you are just a Tech licensee. No problem. You do have limited voice privileges on HF, and you also have several bands in which you can send and receive CW. Also, let’s not forget that you can work any band, any mode in VHF, UHF, and above. There are many CW allocations there, as well. Knowing CW will open a new world of amateur radio to you.

The nice thing about CW is that it is no longer required for any ham radio license. There is no pressure to learn it. We can learn just for fun! We have several club members who work the CW bands almost exclusively. Most of us know two letters anyway. S is “dit dit dit”, and O is “dah dah, dah”. At least we can send “SOS” if we need to! I did get a Novice ham radio license in 1976, and we had to be capable of receiving five words per minute back then. Unfortunately, I was in the military at the time and they sent me to England where my Novice ticket was no good. I had made a goal to myself that when I retired that I would try new modes on the ham bands. Looks like CW will be the first one I try. Want to learn with me?

Perhaps some club members who know CW will rise to the occasion and will share some of their CW learning strategies. If so, please pass them along to me. I will share what you tell us has worked for you.

73, [dah dah di-di-dit di-di-di-dah dah]

*David Harden*, KJ4CMY

Editors Note: David gave a terrific interview to the folks at “The TX Factor”. I really enjoyed listening to it. Ray-N4GYN.



# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in November

Luis Castellanos (KA3C)  
Ryan Girard (KG4WPB)  
William Grube (KM4NIM)  
Andrea Lynch (KM4OKX)  
Manuel Ochoa (N0DHS)  
Julio Sorto (KM4ONA)  
Charles Sullivan (KM4ONB)

## New Members: 7

Total Members as of December 1, 2015  
- 274 -

Join us for our weekly  
breakfast gathering at  
7:30 AM most Saturdays

at

Golden Corral  
2155 Riverside Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

[\(Directions\)](#)

The following members are  
celebrating birthdays  
in December:

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**  
**From All of Us at GARS**

David Adcock (KA4KKF)  
Richard Atkin (KJ4ZTY)  
Steven Back (WB2OGY)  
Joseph Biddle (AD4PZ)  
Shannon Case (KD4HLL)  
Edwin Chwat (K2NED)  
Nicholas Doemland (AB4CQ)  
Ryan Duncan (KI4CSM)  
Gloria Gancarz (KK4SZD)  
John Harmon (N4JCH)  
Jerome Lofton (WD4CWG)  
Michel Matteau (N0DIM)  
Charles McCord (KK4TKJ)  
Pamela Meridy (WB1AKQ)  
Linda Mison (KD6KJL)  
Jack Perry (K6JLP)  
Ralph Pickwick (KJ4CNC)  
Douglas Rink (KK4VBN)  
Norman Schklar (WA4ZXV)  
Susan Swiderski (AF4FO)  
Thomas Whalen (KE4UXW)  
Amy Woodrick (KE4IKF)  
Eriks Zusmanis (KI4TBC)

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail  
towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.),  
please e-mail the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free  
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Committee Members: Richard Atkin, KJ4ZTY, Dave Bruse, W4DTR

# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROLLERS

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only twelve primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Kyle - W4KDA	Mitch - N0DIM
Hal - W4IGE	Don - KW4AL	Ray - N4GYN
Sandy - KJ4DRO	John - WB4QDX	Bill KK4AUA
Kevin - KK4WOG	Chuck - KK4TKJ	Charles - N4CEA

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I need 30 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan to post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you, as a rotating NCS, need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club. The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at KK4TKJ@arrl.net. Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

*Chuck McCord.* KK4TKJ Net Manager



### Don't miss the “KNOW IT ALL” Net Wednesday nights, 8:30-9:30 pm



We have moved to a new format. We begin with current events and announcements. Then we Introduce New Technology. Then we have check-ins and general discussion. Post net is Rag Chew format.

*Jeff*—AB4HF

Everyone is having great fun on this net! Come join us and become a “KNOW IT ALL”.

**TIME: 8:30 every Wednesday evening on the GARS repeater - 2m 147.075 + PL 82.5**

**6m 53.110 - No Tone**

**70cm 442.100 + PL 100.0**

## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

>>> NOTE: For more information click the links <<<

### DECEMBER

- 4-6 [160 Meter](#)  
12-13 [10 Meter](#)  
20 [Rookie Roundup-CW](#)

### FEBRUARY 2016

- 8-12 [School Club Roundup](#)  
20-21 [International DX – CW](#)

### APRIL

- 17 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

### June 2016

- 11-13 [June VHF](#)  
18 [Kids Day](#)  
25-26 [Field Day](#)

For more contest info, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/January%202016%20CORRAL.pdf>

## UPCOMING STATE QSO PARTIES

State/Province	Start Date	End Date	Sponsor Website
British Columbia	2/6/2016	2/7/2016	<a href="#">Orca DX and Contest Club</a>
Minnesota	2/6/2016	2/6/2016	<a href="#">Minnesota Wireless Association</a>
Vermont	2/6/2016	2/7/2016	<a href="#">Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont</a>
New Hampshire	2/13/2016	2/14/2016	<a href="#">Port City Amateur Radio Club</a>
North Carolina	2/28/2016	2/29/2016	<a href="#">Raleigh Amateur Radio Society</a>



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## HAMFEST CALENDAR

### Southeast US

#### 01/09/2016 | [TechFest 2016](#)

**Location:** Lawrenceville, GA  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
**Website:** <http://www.GARS.org>

#### 01/02/2016 | [Freezefest](#)

**Location:** Locust Fork, AL  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Blount County ARC  
**Website:** <http://www.freeze fest.com>  
[Learn More](#)

#### 02/06/2016 | [South Carolina State Convention \(2016 Charleston Hamfest\)](#)

**Location:** North Charleston, SC  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Charleston Amateur Radio Society  
**Website:** <http://wa4usn.org>

#### 04/23/2016 | [Waynesboro Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Waynesboro, GA  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Burke Amateur Radio Club  
**Website:** <http://waynesborohamfest.com>



## BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You!

IF YOU are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities, and have an interest in radio technology,  
**Venture Crew 73 is for you.**

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- *Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.*
- Venture crew 73 is coed.
- *Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at EAA 690 Hangar at:  
Briscoe Field - Sports Aviation Complex  
Hangar 1, 690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045*
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month.

We enjoy:

- ◊ Camping
- ◊ Hiking
- ◊ Horseback Riding
- ◊ Shooting Sports

- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of Amateur Radio.
- For more information, attend our next meeting or contact:

### Steve Back, WB2OGY

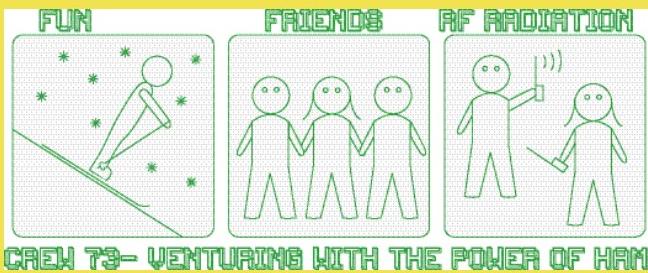
Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman  
Phone: 770-712-9069

E-mail: [committeechair@venturecrew73.org](mailto:committeechair@venturecrew73.org)

### Ryan Girard, KG4WPB

Venture Crew 73 Advisor  
Phone: 770-508-3650

E-mail: [rgirard@knights.ucf.edu](mailto:rgirard@knights.ucf.edu)



## G A R S Officers and Committee Chairs

Rick Cobb, N4XYY  
President



Mike Weathers, ND4V  
Vice President



Nick Doemland, AB4CQ  
Secretary



Sid Weaver, N4NQ  
Treasurer



Nick Nikley, N0NCQ  
Program Manager



Karen Albritton KI4HPP  
Membership Chair



Dave Bruse, W4DTR  
Ham Exam Team Leader



David Adcock, KA4KKF  
Webmaster, Field Day Chair



Dorothy Jubon, N2DLJ  
Public Information Officer



Ralph Pickwick KJ4CNC  
TechFest Chair, Apparel Mgr



Ray Bailey, N4GYN  
GARzette Editor



Jeff Cutchins AB4HF  
Multimedia Chair



John Ackermann, N8UR  
W4GR Trustee



Eddie Foust, WD4JEM  
Repeater Chair



Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC  
Education Chair



Mike Weathers, ND4V  
WAS-Checker, Historian



Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ  
Net Manager



Mike Swiderski, K4HBI  
Technical Advisor



### DIRECTORS

Kyle Albritton W4KDA



David Adcock KA4KKF



Norm Schklar WA4ZXV



## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### JANUARY MEETING

"The New ICOM IC7851 In Detail"

By Will Jourdain, KI4VXF

### FEBRUARY MEETING

"Everything about Morse Code (CW)"

by W4KLY, Paul Kelly and NN4K, Vaden McDonald

Would YOU like to have your QRZ page featured in next month's GARzette? If so, please let me know by writing to me at:

[editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org)

### Do you have ideas for the GARzette?

What would you like to see or read in the next issue? Perhaps you have a pet subject that you would write about. It doesn't have to be perfect, not even close. You can send me your thoughts, ideas, pictures, comments, objections, or praises, and I can edit them to fit the GARzette style so that everyone can read them and make the GARzette more interesting.

Send all to: [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org)

### GARS Recurring Calendar

- ♦ Monthly club meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 pm
- ♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net + 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ♦ Every Wednesday at 8:30 pm: GARS Know It All Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ♦ Every Saturday at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

## NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Rick, N4YXX, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

First time visitors were welcomed and roundtable introductions were made. Ticket upgrades were recognized.

NOTE: 65 attendees were present

#### General Business

- Sid, N4NQ, gave the treasurer's report. Voting took place and the treasurer's report was approved
- Karen, KI4HPP - gave the membership report: GARS has 292 members  
*NOTE: Rick reminded us that our designation as a "Special Service Club" requires that 50% of membership also be an ARRL member (GARS receives a portion of the sign-up and renewal fee. see Sid, N4NQ for details)*
- Nick, N0NCQ, - December 4<sup>th</sup> is the Annual GARS Holiday Party (tickets need to be purchased no later than November 25<sup>th</sup>)
- January 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting - Review of the new ICOM IC7851 by Will Jourdain, KI4VXF

#### Event Recap

- JOTA – Steve, WB2OGY thanked all those that came out to support this event
- HamCram – 16 students were in attendance and 11 passed their exam and received their Technician tickets
- Stone Mountain Hamfest – Even though it was a soggy weekend it didn't dampen the mood of all the hams that came out and found deals with our vendors and in the boneyard. Mike, KK4KHS, Rick, N4XYY and David, KA4KKF thanked all those who helped with setup, teardown and support in the GARS booth.

#### Upcoming Events

##### HamJam 2015

Date: November 15 Time: 0800-1300

Location: Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta, GA

##### GARS Holiday Party

Date: December 4 Time: 1830

Location: EAA690 Hanger – 690 Airport Road, Lawrenceville, GA

##### DC3 Special Event

Date: November 14

Location: Gwinnett County Airport, Lawrenceville, GA

NOTE: Check the EAA 690 website for details

##### Techfest

Date: January 9, 2016

Time: 0900-1400

Location: Gwinnett Medical Resource Center – 665 Duluth Highway, Lawrenceville, GA

##### Cherokee Rose Cluster Dog Show

Date: February 4-7, 2016

Time: TBA

Location: Atlanta Expo Center – 3650 Jonesboro Road, Atlanta, GA

#### Program

Massive Homebrew Show & Tell – thanks to the following Ham's for sharing their homebrew projects;

Joe – AD4PZ  
Paul – KA4YZR  
Bill – W5RQR  
Steve – KM4CVU  
Rich – K7SZ  
David – KA4KKF  
Steven – N4STR  
Paul – W4KLY  
Rich – K4KME  
Nick – N0NCQ

#### Raffle

Meeting concluded at 8:30pm

Nick, AB4CQ, Secretary

## DON'T FORGET!

### VE TESTING LOCATION CHANGE

Starting with our December 13th exam session, we will be moving our regular **Second Sunday** monthly ham radio exams to Gwinnett County Fire Station #24 in Buford near the Mall of Georgia.

**Gwinnett County Fire Station #24  
Community Room  
2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd  
Buford, GA 30519**

Location: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=34.0665545,-83.9725972>

Exams start promptly at 2pm. Walk-ins are always welcome. No food or beverages are allowed.

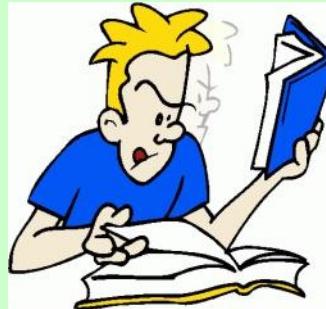
To contact me, or any of my assistant VE Team Leaders, please email us at [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

Thanks!

73 - *Dave*, W4DTR  
GARS VE Team Leader

### GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	3	4 <b>GARS Christmas Party! 6:30 pm</b>	5 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
6	7 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	8 6:30 - 8:00 pm GARS Exec Meeting	9 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	10	11	12 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral
13 GARS Ham Radio License Exam Session 2-5 PM See Calendar on GARS.org	14 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	15	16 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	17	18	19 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
20	21 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 <b>CHRISTMAS 2015</b>	26 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral
27	28 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	29	30	31		

Metro Testing Sessions	Ham Exam Results	Metro Club Meetings
<p>GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <a href="http://www.arrl-ga.org">http://www.arrl-ga.org</a>.</p> <p><b>First Sunday, ODD Months</b> 2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, &amp; Nov) VEC: WCARS Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA Roger Gibson, WB4T (770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560 <a href="mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net">w4rlg@bellsouth.net</a></p> <p><b>First Sunday, EVEN Months</b> 2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) VEC: WCARS Hall County EOC 470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga. Perry Roper, KO4RD (770) 536-3056</p> <p><b>Second Saturday</b> 10:00 AM Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center 13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004 Ian Kahn, KM4IK E-mail: <a href="mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com">km4ik.ian@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Second Saturday, ODD Months</b> VEC: ARRL 8:30 a.m. GMC Community Ctr 5325 Leon St. Stone Mountain, GA Frank Haynes, KV4SP (678) 467-3712</p> <p><b>Second Sunday</b> VEC: W5YI 2 pm Gwinnett County Fire Station #24 2735 Mall of GA Blvd, Buford, GA 30519 Contact: Sid Weaver, N4NQ (770) 995-7247 E-mail: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p><b>Third Saturday</b> VEC: W5YI 2 pm (Except December) Lifeway Church 1654 Atlanta Highway #109 Steve Donellan, N5SMD (404) 520-0368 E-mail: <a href="mailto:n5smd@comcast.net">n5smd@comcast.net</a></p> <p>(cont. next column)</p>	<p>We had a successful exam session on Sunday November 8.</p> <p>One applicant was tested: 1 Upgrade to General</p> <p>Thanks to the following VE's on our team for their participation, especially after all of them participated in the testing at the Lawrenceville Hamfest on Saturday and Sunday. That's real dedication to our team effort.</p> <p>Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ - CoCVE Frank Haynes, KV4SP Nick Doemand, AB4CQ Don Bagby, KK4NJM, - Co-CVE Robert Pursley, WD4KQQ Andre Steyn, W7ALS</p> <p>73, <i>Sid Weaver</i>, N4NQ, Co-CVE GARS VE Team Leader E-mail: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> 	<p><b>First Tuesday</b> Kennehoochee ARC Downtown Marietta Fire Station #1, Training Room 112 Haynes Street Marietta, Georgia 30060 Meeting begins at 7:00pm Talk In 146.880(-)</p> <p><b>First Thursday</b> Atlanta Radio Club Georgia Red Cross HQ 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30pm Talk In -146.820(-) N.E. Georgia ARC Commerce Public Library Meeting is at 6:30pm Talk In - 147.225(+) PL 123.0</p> <p><b>Second Monday</b> Georgia Tech ARC Room W218 Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg. Georgia Tech Campus Meeting at 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Second Thursday</b> Alford Memorial Radio Club Annistown Road Baptist Church Intersection of Annistown Rd &amp; Spain Rd Stone Mountain Dinner at 6:00pm Meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 146.760(-)</p> <p><b>Second Saturday</b> North GA QRP Club Board Room of The Shepherd Center at 2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta at 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>Third Tuesday</b> North Fulton Amateur Radio League Alpharetta Recreation &amp; Parks Dept Alpharetta Adult Activity Center 13450 Cogburn Road Alpharetta, GA 30004 meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 145.47(-) For more, go to: <a href="http://www.gars.org/">http://www.gars.org/</a></p>

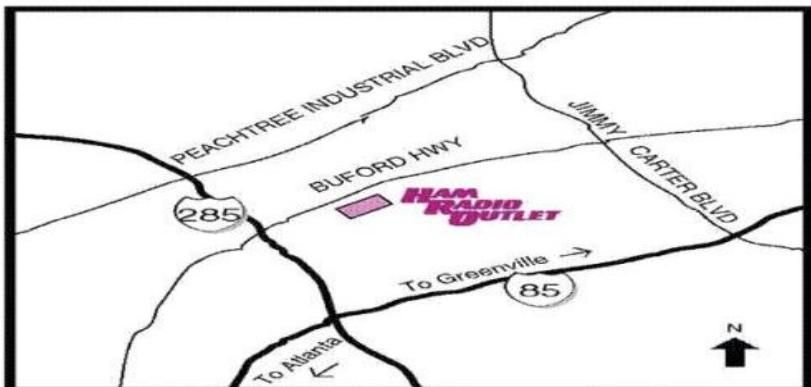
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